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09/407,300	09/29/1999	HARUO MACHIDA	35.C13886	2583

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EXAMINER

NEURAUTER, GEORGE C

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2143

DATE MAILED: 12/13/2002

8

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

# Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/407,300

Applicant(s)

MACHIDA ET AL.

Examiner

George C Neurauter

Art Unit

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

## Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

## Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on \_\_\_\_.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

## Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-18 and 36-88 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-18 and 36-88 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

## Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on \_\_\_\_ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

## Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

## Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) \_\_\_\_.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). \_\_\_\_.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_.

**DETAILED ACTION**

***Response to Arguments***

1. Applicant's arguments filed 7 October 2002 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.
2. In response to applicant's argument that Mayo does not teach a device locally connected to an information processing apparatus not through a network and information related to the device is acquired through the network, a recitation of the intended use of the claimed invention must result in a structural difference between the claimed invention and the prior art in order to patentably distinguish the claimed invention from the prior art. If the prior art structure is capable of performing the intended use, then it meets the claim. In a claim drawn to a process of making, the intended use must result in a manipulative difference as compared to the prior art. See *In re Casey*, 152 USPQ 235 (CCPA 1967) and *In re Otto*, 136 USPQ 458, 459 (CCPA 1963).

In this case, Mayo is able to meet the intended use of the claims because devices on the network are able to send information over the network which is related to itself and other devices that are connected to the device either by polling the device or the device automatically sending the information as described within Mayo [column 4, lines 39-51; column 5, lines 29-48, specifically lines 40-44]. Regardless of whether the other devices are connected to the device through ports or as a software application which is clearly not connected to a network as described in Mayo [column 4, lines 39-51, specifically lines 46-49], the intended use of the invention, to acquire information related to the other devices, is satisfied.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 17-18, 52-53, and 87-88 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Mayo [US Patent 5 751 965].

Regarding claim 17, Mayo discloses an information processing apparatus connected to a network, comprising:

first saving means for saving information of the own device on said network;

connecting means for locally connecting a peripheral device thereto;

second saving means for saving information of said peripheral device connected by said connecting means;

detecting means for detecting a condition of said peripheral device connected by said connecting means; and

transmitting means for transmitting the information saved in said first saving means, the information saved in said second saving means, and the condition detected by said detecting means to another device in response to a request issued from said another device.

[column 5, lines 5-48, specifically lines 25-28; column 6, lines 4-21, specifically lines 10-11]

Claims 52 and 87 are also rejected under 35 USC 102 since claims 52 and 87 contain the same limitations contained in claim 17.

Regarding claim 18, Mayo discloses an information processing apparatus connected to a network, comprising:

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first saving means for saving information of the own device on said network;

, connecting means for locally connecting a peripheral device thereto;

second saving means for saving information of said peripheral device connected by said connecting means;

detecting means for detecting a condition of said peripheral device connected by said connecting means; and

transmitting means for transmitting the information saved in said first saving means, the information saved in said second saving means, and the condition detected by said detecting means to another device on said network in a periodic manner. [column 5, lines 5-48, specifically lines 40-42]

Claims 53 and 88 are also rejected under 35 USC 102 since claims 53 and 88 contain the same limitations contained in claim 18.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.

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4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

4. Claims 1-4, 6-7, 9-12, 15, 19-22, 24-25, 27-30, 32, 36-39, 41-42, 45-47, 49, 54-57, 59-60, 62-65, 67, 71-74, 76-77, 80-82, and 84 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mayo et al [US Patent 5 751 965] in view of Cuenod et al. [US Patent 5 317 693].

Regarding claim 1, Mayo discloses an information processing apparatus connected to a network, comprising:

communicating means for communicating information with each of terminal devices on said network; [Figure 1; column 2, lines 10-31]

first acquiring means for acquiring information related to the terminal device connected to said network; [column 3, lines 3-7]

display means for displaying information of a terminal device connected to said network, information of a peripheral device connected to said terminal device, and a status thereof based upon the information acquired by said first acquiring means, the information acquired by said second acquiring means, and the status acquired by said third acquiring means. [Figure 11; column 6, lines 27-31]

Mayo does not disclose the use of a peripheral locally connected to the terminal device, however, Mayo does disclose that there are a plurality of acquiring means for obtaining information about and status of devices [column 3, lines 24-38].

Cuenod discloses wherein a plurality of peripheral devices which are locally connected to a terminal device [Figure 1, items 102, 110-1, 110-2, 110-3, and 110-4].

It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to use the apparatus as described in Mayo regarding claim 1 with the peripheral devices locally

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connected to a terminal device as described in Cuenod. Cuenod discloses that the peripheral device sends an Attention message that reports the status of the peripheral [column 6, lines 55-68; column 7, lines 1-24], which would motivate one skilled in the art to use the apparatus described in Mayo with a peripheral device in Cuenod. Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine the teachings of Mayo and Cuenod to achieve the limitations as described in claim 1.

Claims 36 and 71 are also rejected under 35 USC 103 since claims 36 and 71 contain the same limitations of claim 1 and therefore fall under the same motivations put forth regarding claim 1.

Regarding claim 2, Mayo and Cuenod disclose an information processing apparatus according to claim 1. Mayo further discloses wherein:

said first acquiring means, said second acquiring means, and said third acquiring means poll the terminal device on said network to acquire both the information and the status thereof every time a predetermined time period has passed; and

said display means updates the display content based upon said polling-acquired information and condition. [column 5, lines 5-48, specifically lines 40-42 and 46-48]

Given the motivations to combine references regarding claim 1, claim 2 is rejected under 35 USC 103 using the combination of teachings of Mayo and Cuenod.

Claims 20, 37, 55, and 72 are also rejected under 35 USC 103 since claims 20, 37, 55, and 72 contains the same limitations of claim 2 and therefore fall under the same motivations put forth regarding claim 2.

Regarding claim 3, Mayo and Cuenod disclose an information processing apparatus according to claim 1. Mayo further discloses wherein:

said first acquiring means, said second acquiring means, and said third acquiring means poll the terminal device on said network to acquire both the information and the status thereof in response to a predetermined operation made by a user; and

said display means updates the display content based upon said polling-acquired information and condition. [column 5, lines 5-48, specifically lines 46-48; column 7, lines 6-8]

Given the motivations to combine references regarding claim 1, claim 3 is rejected under 35 USC 103 using the combination of teachings of Mayo and Cuenod.

Claims 21, 38, 56, and 73 are also rejected under 35 USC 103 since claims 21, 38, 56, and 73 contain the same limitations of claim 3 and therefore fall under the same motivations put forth regarding claim 3.

Regarding claim 4, Mayo and Cuenod disclose an information processing apparatus according to claim 1. Mayo further discloses wherein:

said first acquiring means, said second acquiring means, and said third acquiring means receive and obtain both the information and the condition notified from the terminal device on said network; and

said display means updates the display content based upon said notified information and condition. [column 5, lines 2-48, specifically lines 42-43 and 46-48]

Given the motivation to combine references regarding claim 1, claim 4 is rejected under 35 USC 103 using the combination of teachings of Mayo and Cuenod.

Claims 22, 39, 57, and 74 are also rejected under 35 USC 103 since claims 22, 39, 57, and 74 contain the same limitations of claim 4 and therefore fall under the same motivations put forth regarding claim 4.



Regarding claim 6, Mayo and Cuenod disclose an information processing apparatus according to claim 1. Cuenod further discloses wherein:

said peripheral device is a printer device. [column 1, lines 13-22 specifically line 16]

Given the motivation for combining references regarding claim 1, claim 6 is also rejected under 35 USC 103 using the combination of teachings of Mayo and Cuenod.

Claims 24, 41, 59, and 76 are also rejected under 35 USC 103 since claims 24, 41, 59, and 76 contain the same limitations of claim 6 and therefore fall under the same motivations put forth regarding claim 6.

Regarding claim 7, Mayo and Cuenod disclose an information processing apparatus according to claim 1. Cuenod further discloses wherein:

said peripheral device is a modem device. [column 1, lines 8-10]

Given the motivation for combining references regarding claim 1, claim 7 is also rejected under 35 USC 103 using the combination of teachings of Mayo and Cuenod.

Claims 25, 42, 60, and 77 are also rejected under 35 USC 103 since claims 25, 42, 60, and 77 contain the same limitations of claim 7 and therefore fall under the same motivations put forth regarding claim 7.

Regarding claim 9, Mayo and Cuenod disclose an information processing apparatus according to claim 1. Mayo further discloses wherein:

said first acquiring means acquires information of a terminal device within a predetermined network domain. [column 1, lines 42-53]

Given the motivations to combine references regarding claim 1, claim 9 is also rejected under 35 USC 103 using the combination of teachings of Mayo and Cuenod.

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Claims 27 and 62 are also rejected under 35 USC 103 since claims 27 and 62 contain similar or the same limitations as recited in claim 9 and therefore fall under the same motivations regarding claim 9.

Regarding claim 10, Mayo and Cuenod disclose an information processing apparatus according to claim 1. Mayo further discloses wherein:

said display means displays a terminal device and a peripheral device, which are displayed, by way of display elements; and

also displays a connection condition thereof by connecting the respective display elements to each other on a display screen thereof. [Figure 11; column 10, lines 26-46]

Given the motivations to combine references regarding claim 1, claim 10 is also rejected under 35 USC 103 using the combination of teachings of Mayo and Cuenod.

Claims 28, 45, 63, and 80 are also rejected under 35 USC 103 since claims 28, 45, 63, and 80 contain the same limitations as recited in claim 10 and therefore fall under the same motivations regarding claim 10.

Regarding claim 11, Mayo and Cuenod disclose an information processing apparatus according to claim 10. Mayo further discloses wherein:

said display means displays thereon the connection condition of said peripheral device based upon a sort of lines used to connect the terminal device with the peripheral device.

[Figure 2, items 27A, 27B, and 27C; column 2, lines 38-50]

Given the motivations to combine references regarding claim 1, claim 11 is also rejected under 35 USC 103 using the combination of teachings of Mayo and Cuenod.

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Claims 29, 46, 64, and 81 are also rejected under 35 USC 103 since claims 29, 46, 64, and 81 contain the same limitations as recited in claim 11 and therefore fall under the same motivations regarding claim 11.

Regarding claim 12, Mayo and Cuenod disclose an information processing apparatus according to claim 10. Mayo further discloses wherein:

when said display means displays the condition of the peripheral device, said display means selects an icon corresponding to said condition of the peripheral device from a predetermined icon group to display said selected icon. [column 6, lines 60-62]

Given the motivations to combine references regarding claim 1, claim 12 is also rejected under 35 USC 103 using the combination of teachings of Mayo and Cuenod.

Claims 30, 47, 65, and 82 are also rejected under 35 USC 103 since claims 30, 47, 65, and 82 contain the same limitations as recited in claim 12 and therefore fall under the same motivations regarding claim 12.

Regarding claim 15, Mayo and Cuenod disclose an information processing apparatus according to claim 12. Mayo further discloses wherein:

said icon group contains an icon for representing the condition of the peripheral device by way of a mesh thereof. [Figure 10, "Legend"; column 10, lines 22-25]

Given the motivations to combine references regarding claim 1, claim 15 is also rejected under 35 USC 103 using the combination of teachings of Mayo and Cuenod.

Claims 32, 49, 67, and 84 are also rejected under 35 USC 103 since claims 32, 49, 67, and 84 contain the same limitations as recited in claim 15 and therefore fall under the same motivations regarding claim 15.

Claims 19 and 54 are also rejected under 35 USC 103 since claims 19 and 54 contain the same limitations as claims 1 and 17 and therefore falls under the same motivations for combining the references Mayo and Cuenod as described regarding claim 1 and the reference to Mayo made under 35 USC 102 regarding claim 17.

5. Claims 5, 23, 40, 58, and 75 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mayo et al. and Cuenod et al. as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Dev et al. [US Patent 5 261 044] in which Mayo incorporates by reference.

Regarding claim 5, Mayo and Cuenod disclose an information processing apparatus according to claim 1. Mayo and Cuenod do not disclose the use of a selecting means, however, Cuenod does disclose the use of a step-up operation for using the peripheral device to carry out in response to a selecting operation by the user. [column 1, lines 59-68; column 2, lines 1-21]

Dev discloses a selecting means for selecting a desirable peripheral device by a user from the peripheral devices displayed by said display means. [column 15, lines 28-42]

Given the motivations to combine the references regarding claim 1 and the fact that Mayo incorporates Dev by reference [column 4, lines 64-67; column 5, line 1], claim 5 is also rejected under 35 USC 103 using the combination of teachings of Mayo and Cuenod.

Claims 23, 40, 58, and 75 are also rejected under 35 USC 103 since claims 23, 40, 58, and 75 contain the same limitations of claim 5 and therefore fall under the same motivations put forth regarding claim 5.

6. Claims 8, 26, 43, 61, and 78 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mayo et al. and Cuenod et al. as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Barrett [US Patent 5 935 262].

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Regarding claim 8, Mayo and Cuenod disclose an information processing apparatus according to claim 1. Mayo and Cuenod does not disclose the use of an image input device.

Barrett discloses wherein:

said peripheral device is an image input device. [column 1, lines 22-39 specifically line 30-31]

It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to use the apparatus as described in Mayo and Cuenod regarding claim 1 with the image input device peripheral as described in Barrett. Barrett discloses that such a image input device is a intelligent and interactive network member including the ability transmit data about the devices status and operational parameters [column 1, lines 28-36], which would motivate one skilled in the art to use the apparatus described in Mayo and Cuenod with the image input device as described in Barrett. Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine the teachings of Mayo, Cuenod, and Barrett to achieve the limitations as described in claim 8.

Claims 26, 43, 61, and 78 are also rejected under 35 USC 103 since claims 26, 43, 61, and 78 contain the same limitations of claim 8 and therefore fall under the same motivations regarding claim 8.

7. Claims 13, 33, 50, 68, and 85 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mayo et al. and Cuenod et al. as applied to claim 12 above, and further in view of Seymour [US Patent 5 109 486].

Regarding claim 13, Mayo and Cuenod disclose an information processing apparatus according to claim 12. Mayo and Cuenod do not disclose the use of an icon denoting whether a peripheral device is busy or not under use, however, Cuenod discloses the use of peripherals as

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described above and Mayo discloses the use of icons to denote conditions of a device also as described above.

Seymour discloses wherein:

an indication that a device is busy and also another representing that a device is not under use. [column 9, lines 44-48]

It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to use the apparatus as described in Mayo and Cuenod regarding claim 12 with the indication of a device being busy or not busy as described in Seymour. Seymour discloses wherein devices on a network inform of the updated status of any device changes [column 4, lines 50-53], which would motivate one skilled in the art to combine the teachings of Mayo, Cuenod, and Seymour. Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine the teachings of Mayo, Cuenod, and Seymour to achieve the limitations as described in claim 13.

Claims 33, 50, 68, and 85 are also rejected under 35 USC 103 since claims 33, 50, 68, and 85 contain the same limitations as recited in claim 13 and therefore fall under the same motivations regarding claim 13.

8. Claims 14, 31, 48, 66, and 83 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mayo et al. and Cuenod et al. as applied to claim 12 above, and further in view of Knodt et al. [US Patent 5 987 535].

Regarding claim 14, Mayo and Cuenod disclose an information processing apparatus according to claim 12. Mayo and Cuenod do not disclose the use of a moving picture representation.

Knodt discloses wherein:

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said icon group contains an icon for representing the condition of the peripheral device by way of a moving picture representation. [Figure 10, 11, and 12, item 78 in each figure; column 4, lines 66-67, column 5, lines 1-8]

It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to use the apparatus as described in Mayo and Cuenod regarding claim 12 with the moving picture representation as described in Knodt. Knodt discloses wherein it is desired to provide the immediate status and capability of a device by displaying an indicator [column 2, lines 26-38], which would motivate one skilled in the art to combine the teachings of Mayo, Cuenod, and Knodt. Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine the teachings of Mayo, Cuenod, and Knodt to achieve the limitations as described in claim 14.

Claims 31, 48, 66, and 83 are also rejected under 35 USC 103 since claims 31, 48, 66, and 83 contain the same limitations as recited in claim 14 and therefore fall under the same motivations regarding claim 14.

9. Claims 35 and 70 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mayo et al. and Cuenod et al. as applied to claim 30 above, and further in view of Knodt et al. [US Patent 5 987 535]

Regarding claim 35, Mayo and Cuenod disclose a system according to claim 30. Mayo and Cuenod do not disclose the use of a printer device showing a plurality of print jobs pending.

Knodt discloses wherein:

said peripheral device is a printer device; and said icon group contains such an icon which indicates that a plurality of print jobs are pending. [Figure 10, item 72; column 4, line 20]

Claim 35 is rejected under 35 USC 103 since the motivation to combine the references of Mayo, Cuenod, and Knodt are described above regarding claim 14.

Claim 70 is also rejected under 35 USC 103 since claim 70 contains the same limitations as recited in claim 35 and therefore falls under the same motivations for combining references.

10. Claims 16, 34, 51, 69, and 86 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mayo et al. and Cuenod et al. as applied to claim 12 above, and further in view of “Windows 95 Troubleshooting: Device Manager Error Codes” by InfiniSource (hereon referred to as “Troubleshooting”).

Regarding claim 16, Mayo and Cuenod disclose an information processing apparatus according to claim 12. Mayo and Cuenod do not disclose an icon which indicates that a driver program is not installed.

“Troubleshooting” discloses wherein:

said icon group contains an icon for indicating that a driver program for controlling a peripheral device is not installed in the own device. [page 1, “Device Manager Error Codes” specifically “X indicates a disabled device”; page 3, “Code 8”]

It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to use the appartatus as described in Mayo and Cuenod regarding claim 12 with the icon representing a uninstalled device driver as described in “Troubleshooting”. “Troubleshooting” discloses that the operating system Windows produces a display of the status of a device [page 1, “Device Manager Error Codes” specifically the line that recites “If there is a problem with one of your devices, Windows will list the device with 1 to 3 symbols in the Device Manager”], which would motivate one skilled in the art to combine the teachings of Mayo, Cuenod, and



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“Troubleshooting”. Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine the teachings of Mayo, Cuenod, and “Troubleshooting” to achieve the limitations as described in claim 16.

Claims 34, 51, 69, and 86 are also rejected under 35 USC 103 since claims 34, 51, 69, and 86 contain the same limitations as recited in claim 16 and therefore fall under the same motivations regarding claim 16.

### ***Conclusion***

3. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to George C Neurauter whose telephone number is 703-305-4565. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri 9am-5:30pm Eastern Time.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner’s supervisor, David Wiley can be reached on 703-308-5221. The fax phone numbers for the

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organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-746-7239 for regular communications and 703-746-7238 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-746-7240.

gcn

December 5, 2002



**DAVID WILEY**  
**SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER**  
**TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100**